THE EXAMINER.

No. 214 SUNDAY, FEB. 2, 1812

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few. SWIFT.

No. 208.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE EXECUTION OF CHARLES THE FIRST.

By a paragraph in the *Morning Chronicle*, it would appear that this strange Anniversary was not observed on Thursday last by the House of Commons with the customary devotion:—no Prayers were read, no Sermon delivered, no Martyrdom sanctified and deplored. By what accident such an omission took place—whether from any compliance with the supposed opinions of the new Court, or from the thinness of attendance common on the occasion,—the public are not informed. The Minister, who now leads the House, has been rather remarkable, I believe, for his attachment to the memory of King CHARLES; and I think I have before mentioned to the reader, that missing one day a Bust of that Monarch which used to look down from a door-way in the lobbies, and perhaps does so still, I was informed by one of the servants of the House, that the place in which it stood was only being cleaned or repaired, and that in the mean time Mr. PERCEVAL often expressed his anxiety to see it up again,—feeling perhaps (though the man did not add this) that the passages wanted a certain air of impressiveness in it's absence, and that some of the Members, who had no notion of a King within the House, might absolutely lose all respect for kingly influence from without.

Be this as it may, I believe it is now pretty generally admitted by all parties,—with the exception of a few such persons as Mr. Chairman WHARTON and the Minister just mentioned, and of a few good old Scotish calculators,—who are always perplexed, by-the-bye, between their due appreciation of loyalty to the present Family and their native attachment to the old,—that in a plain, rational view of things, the solemnization of this Anniversary as a Church holiday is not the most decent or justifiable of customs, and had much better be done away. What is the real and impartial state of the case? It is this;—that allowing all due credit to King CHARLES for the good qualities he possessed, such as a love of the liberal arts, a domestic turn of mind, and a propriety of moral conduct as a father and a husband,—and giving up his enemies at the same time to just reprobation as far as they deserved it, that is to say, for their fanaticism, their hypocrisy, and their usurpations,—neither can the good qualities of the former do away the unconstitutional and tyrannical actions of which he was guilty, nor can the eventual bad conduct of the latter destroy the complaints and the claims of the liberty which they professed to vindicate. The King, say his friends, was a "misguided" man;—be it so;—and CROMWELL, they tell us, was a hypocrite and usurper; be it so too. Both the assertions are just, and it becomes us to pity the one as well as to reprobate the other. But this is not an age, in which we are to be desired to canonize with our pity a solitary individual, and to forget, at the same time, the millions of people whom he ill-treated. If CHARLES was a good husband and father, it might be added that he was also a weak and passionate man, even in private; but this is not the point at issue;—the point is, that he was also an oppressive Monarch, who exacted from the people what was not his due,—who revived the most odious monopolies,—and who erected an inquisition into the lives and properties of his subjects, from which there was no appeal,—who, in one word, made it appear, even to his most systematic advocates, that he regarded his single will as paramount to every other authority and consideration. If it be still urged, that he was surrounded by evil Counsellors, that he lived in the most difficult times, and above all, that he had been educated in false and fatal notions of government,—all this may be allowed, and yet he will be no nearer in any just claim to the reputation of a Martyr and to the yearly penitence of the English people. We may even agree to forget that the choice of such Counsellors is a bad symptom in a Prince, that much of the difficulty of the times was owing to himself, and that to his bad education were added repulsive and imperious habits of his own, which he certainly did not learn from his father; but still, make what allowances for him we may,—forget for him,—feel for him,—invent for him,—to this conclusion we must come at last,—that *he was a F[illegible]ce who attempted to rule above the laws*;—and this single conclusion should be enough, in the eyes of all Englishmen, to render any such Anniversary as the present a custom equally impolitic and unbecoming. To judge by the service that is ordained for this occasion, a person who was ignorant of our history would suppose that CHARLES was all justice and perfection, and his revolted subjects a set of unprovoked and indiscriminate villains; and he would probably conclude also, that we who celebrate his Martyrdom were filled with nothing but fright and remorse on account of our ancestors, and had acquiesced in the most timid subjection accordingly. The very title has a mortifying extravagance about it:—it is called a "Form of Prayer, with Fasting, to be used yearly upon the 30th of January, being the day of the Martyrdom of the blessed King CHARLES the First, to implore the mercy of GOD, that neither the guilt of that sacred and innocent Blood, nor those other Sins, by which GOD was provoked to deliver up both us and our King into the hands of cruel and unreasonable men, may at any

time hereafter be visited upon us or our posterity."—Now, to say nothing of the no-meaning of the word Martyrdom as here applied, it is the fault of all ceremonious ordinances like this service, that when the feelings are gone by under which they were produced, they become a mere set of words, and when we consider the difference between the unthinking persons who repeat them, and the awful BEING to whom they are repeated, degenerate into such mockery as I need not or indeed cannot describe. In the first place, here is a *pretence* of fasting; for in point of fact, who fasts on the occasion? Who denies himself a mouthful the less, or ought to do so, because an unhappy Monarch was put to death a hundred and fifty years ago? And then,—who ever dreams of attributing the national misfortunes to such a circumstance? What devout person ever thinks of addressing himself privately to his MAKER in the words of this preamble, as applicable to existing evils? What politician, lawyer, clergyman, soldier, or philosopher, ever deduces the weight of our taxes, the increase of our felonies, the growth of our heresies, the defeat of our armaments, or the decay of our public spirit, from the proceedings of OLIVER CROMWELL? And what madness would it not be considered in any Member of Parliament, after coming from church on this Anniversary, to suggest to the House that its prayers had not been heard, and that the loss of our trade therefore was to be attributed, not to BONAPARTE, but to the President BRADSHAW? The thing will not bear a moment's consideration. Our Monarchs, if they please, may reckon it a compliment to have the feelings, remonstrances, and imprecations of King DAVID put into the mouths of them and their brethren, though the custom of making that flattering comparison has long since declined; they may also think it politic to keep up a certain embalming delusion about the character of CHARLES the First, though a broad and philosophical view of their real interests will have a very different perception of that matter;—but on no account is it becoming a free and enlightened people to justify as well as sanctify, by a yearly show of remorse, the whole conduct and memory of an oppressive Ruler; and the very last persons whom it becomes, are the Members of that Assembly, which he affected to despise, which he tried to reduce to a non-entity, and whose privileges, when he could do no more, he passionately and grossly violated.

It may be asked, what I would propose to do on the 30th of January, and whether, in the taste of other objectors to that holiday, I would regale myself with an emblematic calf's-head, and make a dinner, as it were, of a bad pun.—Not I, indeed. One foolish custom is ill reproved by another, especially by a barbarism so vulgar. What I would propose to my countrymen on that day, is what I would propose to be done on all other days,—that is, to act and think like independent Englishman, who pity the errors of Sovereigns without forgetting the evils they bring upon subjects; and who, instead of honouring or ridiculing one absurdity by another, treasure up the memory of past misfortunes only for the better regulation of their reason, and the more lasting security of their liberties.

☞

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Until Friday, there was nothing of importance before this House. On that day, Earl FITZWILLIAM made his motion (which he introduced by a short speech containing much sound argument)—"That the House should resolve into a Committee to take into consideration the affairs of Ireland." This reasonable motion was seconded by the Dukes of DEVONSHIRE and BEDFORD, the Marquisses of DOWNSHIRE and LANSDOWNE,—Lords SOMERS, CARYSFORT, MOIRA, ERSKINE, DARNLEY, GREY, and GRENVILLE,—and opposed by the Marquis WELLESLEY, the Earls of ABERDEEN, ROSS, LIVERPOOL, WESTMORELAND, HARDWICKE, and BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, and Lords SIDMOUTH and MULGRAVE.—On a division there appeared for the Motion, 79; against it, 162—Majority, 83.—Adjourned till Monday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, Jan. 27.

KING'S HOUSEHOLD.

Mr. PERCEVAL moved that the House should go into a Committee on this Bill.

Mr. TIERNEY opposed it, there not being sufficient information before the House; neither, indeed, ought such a Bill to pass. As to that part which related to his Majesty's private property, he doubted whether the House could legislate on such a matter. The House ought not to be called upon to recognize any private property as belonging to the King individually.—By a clause in the Bill, three Commissioners were to be appointed at 1000*l.* a-year each, to regulate that property.—*What must such property amount to, which could afford to pay* 3000*l. a-year merely for auditing?*—He objected to the interference of Parliament, and much more to their appointment of these Commissioners, who were to be sworn not to betray "the secrets of the prison-house."—The Prince Regent had conducted himself with the greatest propriety; yet by this Bill he was to be treated as a person not fit to be trusted—as if he had not atoned for any *supposed* or *imaginary* errors by the rectitude of his conduct, and consequently had not wiped off that dark disgust which had dictated the Restrictions.—(*Hear, hear!*)—By this measure, there were to be two Courts and two Privy Purses. The Right Hon. Gentleman had said that 70,000*l.* were to be placed in the hands of the Prince to meet certain engagements of honour. What did he mean? Were these engagements debts? If so, and these debts were thoroughly sifted, his Royal Highness would not be found subject to any other observation than that he had not acted upon all occasions with due propriety—that in some instances negligence might be imputed to his conduct—and in others the charge of profusion.—These things ought to be fairly stated to the House. If it was intended to repose confidence in the Prince, and hail him as the future Sovereign, let the House act liberally—pay his debts—(*Hear, hear!*)—He was perhaps not *seeking popularity*,—he cared not—but he must say, that unless the debts were *disgracefully* contracted, Parliament ought to pay them.—(*Hear, hear!*)—There was nothing more dangerous to the Monarchy, than that the country should understand that the Prince had engagements which were of such a nature as rendered it improper to lay them before Parliament. If it were right to pay the arrears of the Civil List, it was equally right to discharge these "engagements."—The system proposed was one of distrust, which he altogether disapproved.

Mr. WHITBREAD said, that the principle of the Bill was

that of creating a separate and secret source of influence, which might or might not be used, as it might or might not have been used under the restricted Regency. Where was the necessity for all this machinery? The restrictions would soon fall off of themselves, and therefore why not give him the Civil List?—Why not furnish him with funds, not only to supply his Majesty, but to relieve himself from the degraded situation in which debt must place a Monarch? It was known that debts were due by the Prince of Wales, and due for a long time; it was known that a sum of money was set aside for the purpose of paying them, and people were given to understand that before the year 1811 they would have been liquidated; but now, so far from his Royal Highness being able to do so, they were called upon this year to give an additional annuity for an unlimited time, in order to meet debts, which, however large in their amount, must in their nature be limited; but could they, the House of Commons, take upon themselves to say that he owed such debts, without a Message to that effect? It was not the fashion of Ministers to advise him to make any communications,—(*Hear, hear, hear!*)—and the consequence was, that they were called upon to vote different sums which were said to be necessary, but not proved to be so.—In such a situation ought they to be satisfied, or ought the Prince of Wales? Had it been the custom, or was it the true sense, spirit, and principle of the House of Commons, to grant 70,000*l.* for ever for such a purpose? A sum which might be used in Parliament for the Crown or against it, and whose tendency must be to endanger the Constitution. But persons were to be appointed to superintend the private property of his Majesty, and they were to take an oath of secresy as to the application of that property. They might explain to the Queen, who was their mistress, or to the Prince, who was not their master; but to the House of Commons, who ought to be made acquainted with the fact, they were upon oath not to explain. Suppose that the fund was to be laid out in purchasing Boroughs or Seats in Parliament, those, in a narrow point of view, might be considered as providing for the dignity of the Crown; but were they not really destructive of the true interests of the Country? On the subject of money, there was an assertion in the Bill, in support of which there was no record on the Journals of that House; it was stated that the Prince of Wales was ready to give up 50,000*l.* a-year out of his Exchequer Annuity; but he would say that there ought to be an end to it altogether.—(*Hear, hear!*)—This was an assumption upon which he did not think they could proceed. Had any Message come down upon that subject, had any thing been said which could appear on the Journals of the House respecting it? On all these points he desired explanation before he could vote for the Speaker's leaving the Chair.

Mr. PERCEVAL observed, that as to the subject of the King's private property, he certainly had said that it was his intention to propose salaries to the Commissioners, to be paid out of the proceeds of the property itself. He had since, however, reason to believe that he should be able to find persons who would willingly take upon themselves that charge, without receiving any salary. He could not, however, agree that Parliament were making final arrangements as for the Prince's coming to the throne. They were only making arrangements for the better managment of the household during his Majesty's indisposition. It would not be dealing fair with the House to say there was complete and utter despair of the King's resuming the royal authority. Nothing existed to justify so gloomy a view of the subject. If, therefore, Parliament kept in mind the possibility of his Majesty's recovery, they must also keep in mind the possibility of the Regent's return to the situation of Prince of Wales. How, therefore, would they be justified, under such circumstances, in breaking down his Exchequer revenue? The Hon. Gentlemen called the proposed plan the worst that could be thought of; but he hoped that the House and the country would think it much better than any thing they had suggested. What evils did not the Honourable Gentlemen affect to see in this proposed establishment! What patronage! Four Lords of the Bedchamber! and all the Pages!—(*a laugh.*) Then so many seats in Parliament! and that was the retreat he had prepared for himself! This had been called a new Court. As individuals surrounding the Monarch, they were unquestionably a Court. But there was nothing new in this. When his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales arrived at that period of life when an establishment became necessary for him, an establishment was formed, and Parliament entertained no apprehensions of the influence which his Court would occasion. Surely the Constition of England was not so nicely balanced that four Lords of the Bedchamber could overturn it, even with the addition of all the Pages (*a laugh.*) He trusted the House would feel that no one could vote against the principle of the Bill, who did not think that it was radically wrong to propose any arrangement before the expiration of the restrictions—that it was improper to surround the King with any dignity, and equally improper to entrust the Queen with the controul of those individuals who were to be in attendance on her Royal Consort's person. If the arrangements were too extensive, in the Committee they might be curtailed; if they were too limited, in the Committee they might be increased. The general principle was, that on which the House had at present solely to decide.

Mr. PONSONBY said, that the Queen had already 58,000*l.* a year out of the privy purse, and this controul would create a great deal of additional influence.

On a division, there was for the Speaker's leaving the Chair a majority of 82. The House then went into the Committee, when various observations were made and amendments proposed.—On the clause alluding to the remaining 70,000*l.* of the Prince's Exchequer Revenue being appropriated to the discharge of his Royal Highness's debts,

Mr. ADAM said, there had been a great deal of allusion to what were termed the *honourable obligations*, and the *debts* of the Prince Regent. By whatever denomination they were mentioned, was of very little importance; but what he considered of great importance was, that the House should be in possession of the nature and the history of these obligations. It would be in the recollection of the House, that in 1795, an Act was passed putting the property of the Prince of Wales into a certain course for the payment of his debts, and regulating that payment in a particular manner. It was then enacted, that if a tradesman of the Prince should not have his debt discharged in the quarter immediately after it was contracted, he should serve a notice of ten days on the proper officer; after the service of which that officer was made personally responsible for the debt: but if the tradesman failed so to do, then there was an end to his demand. The operation of this enactment was felt very severely by his Royal Highness, and he found it impracticable to deal with his tradesmen without entering into an understanding with them, that what the Act militated against should be to him a matter of honourable contract. He hoped that the House would participate in the sentiment of delicacy then felt by his Royal Highness, particularly when they should find no very improper extravagance in his conduct, and when they should know the additional charges to which his Royal Highness was afterwards subjected by the country. Every person must remember, that in 1803, the demands on the Prince of Wales became the subject of Parliamentary regulation: and it was then perfectly well understood, that those demands were of that honourable kind which he had just described. One hundred and eighty thousand pounds were then granted him by Parliament, being part of his revenue by anticipation for three years. A sum, which his Royal Highness had borrowed from the Elector of Hesse, and which was known by the name of the *foreign loan*, was the only exception to the nature of his debts; but such was the *limited state* of his income, that the *best economy* could not cover them.—His Royal Highness was besides, as he had before hinted, made subject to the payment of the property-tax after 1803; and it was exacted from him for nine years, to the very letter of the law. He did not wish to throw any blame on any one; but he had to state, that the whole of what his Royal Highness paid in taxes of different kinds since 1803 was 175,000*l.*; which sum he had a right to count upon for the liquidation of his debts, and which, if it had been at his disposal for that purpose, would have gone a great way in answering

it. It was also rather hard, that the royal palace in which the Prince of Wales lived was the only royal palace which paid any rent; and that for rent, rates, taxes, and insurances on property in it which was not his own, he had to pay upwards of 4000*l.* a-year. When the House took these charges, placed upon him by the House itself, into consideration, he would take upon himself to say, that it was merely fair to allow his Royal Highness the sum of 58,000*l.* proposed by the clause to be appropriated for the payment of his debts. The system too of leaving this 53,000*l.* to his Royal Highness, as the residue of his Exchequer revenue, he considered the best in principle that could be devised, and that certainly which must be most agreeable to the feelings of the Prince Regent himself. The Hon. Gentleman alluded to his Royal Highness's claims on the Duchy. He would not go into the question whether those claims were well or ill-founded, because it was not the intention of his Royal Highness ever to press them; but when he made this declaration, had he not a right to argue the justice of the present clause? for if the claims had been allowed to the Prince, he would have had infinitely more than all his demands. When they saw what was withheld from him, and what, as taxes, &c. he was obliged to pay, was it but mere justice to require the appropriating 53,000*l.* a year to the payment of those demands? The Hon. Gentleman next alluded to the fines received by the Prince from the Duchy of Cornwall, since he (Mr. A.) had been one of the Trustees. The whole of those fines amounted to only 60,000*l.* 57,000*l.* of which were applied to the liquidation of debts; and the remaining 3000*l.* retained for his Privy Purse, were distributed in such a way as most reflect eternal honour on his principles and his heart. It was the Honourable Member himself, who, by the direction of his Royal Highness, had given away those 3000*l.* to three several objects of his bounty. The Honourable Member concluded by saying, that this last duty to his Royal Master was the last of his own political life. Affairs, which it was of no consequence to the world to know, drew him to the labours of his profession. In taking his leave of that House and of the public, he hoped it would not be considered presumption in him to say, that he believed he had acted with honesty to the public and fidelity to his Prince. He felt that he could carry with him into his retirement the proud but delightful consciousness of having acted right.

Mr. Banks stated, that if the explanation which had been just given by his Hon. and Learned Friend had been offered in an earlier stage of the debate, he should not have troubled the House with his objections. Though he was of opinion that the present mode of meeting the exigency was not well selected, still he thought, after the candid statement just made, the House would no longer object to relieving the Prince.

The clause then passed.

Mr. Brougham wished the 15th clause postponed, from the lateness of the hour, and because several Members who had intended to oppose it were then absent.

Mr. Giles and Mr. Perceval made some observations, in which Mr. Perceval defended the application of the Droits towards supplying the deficits of the Civil List; and Mr. Giles insisted, that Parliament was bound to look to the application of this money, and also to examine what funds were sufficient to meet debts which might arise.

Mr. Brougham spoke against the clause.

The House then divided on the 15th clause.—For it, 105—Against it, 33—Majority, 72.—Adjourned.

Tuesday, Jan. 28.

Mr. Sinclair brought up a Petition from his Constituents in Caithness praying for a Reform in Parliament.—Laid on the table.

REVERSION BILL.

Mr. Banks said he should not delay the House with any observations on his present motion, which he understood was not likely to meet with any opposition from any part of the House. The Bill now in existence would expire on the 5th of February. It would ill become him to say that he did not intend this as a permanent measure, and it would also ill become the House after what had already passed. He should therefore, without further preface, move for leave to bring in a Bill to prohibit the granting of offices in reversion, or for joint lives, for the benefit of survivors.—Leave given.

THE KING'S HOUSEHOLD.

Mr. Lushington brought up the Report of the Committee on the Household Bill.

Mr. Brougham made a few remarks. He referred to the practice of Parliament in other instances, and stated that no less than three Committees were appointed on occasions of increasing the Civil List in the administrations of Mr. Pitt and Lord Sidmouth. There was nothing in the accounts on the table at present, which should induce the House to relax their constitutional jealousy of such proceedings: on the contrary, there was every thing to alarm it. He then entered into various items presented to the House, and inferred from their apparent extravagance, that they called for strict scrutiny. He wished Gentlemen to consider the different way in which things of this kind were dealt with in the reign of George II. After he had sat upon the throne for the space of 20 years, there was a deficit in the Civil List to the amount of 450,000*l.* This deficit was made up by Parliament, and in the succeeding years a surplus of 115,000*l.* accumulated, which his Majesty applied, not to the purchase of personal property, but to the relief of the people, from whom it was originally drawn. He should pass over the omission of the name of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, which was not mentioned in the Bill, from beginning to end; but he thought the House was bound to look to the increase of influence which was likely to accrue to the Crown, by the addition of 21 to the corps of attendants. He objected to the manner in which her Majesty would be tempted by the power to be placed in her hands, either to thwart the intentions of the Crown, or, on the other hand, to give to the Crown a preponderating influence. It appeared to him, that the House had never before sanctioned such unauthorised accounts and demands without a full inquiry.

Mr. Rose entered into a statement of the Parliamentary grants made to his Majesty, the whole of which amounted only to two millions four hundred and nineteen thousand; being an average during his reign of 93,000*l.* a year. And let it be considered, he said, that since the year 1741 money had been depreciated to nearly half its value at that period.

Mr. Bennett expressed his intention not to allow a single shilling of the public money to be voted away without proof of its necessity. He entered into an historical detail of the proceedings of Parliament on the subject of permitting placemen to retain seats in the House of Commons, and declared his determination to submit to Parliament a motion on the subject. He dwelt on the disinclination which appeared on the part of Ministers to consult the general feeling on this subject, and instanced the case of Col. M'Mahon's appointment as a stricking illustration of this fact. He had no doubt as an honourable man (they were "all honourable men") Colonel M'Mahon was entitled to the gratitude of the Prince, but he could not allow he was intitled to one shilling of the public money. The influence of corruption was most extensive. One man in five in the country looked to the patronage of office; and under these circumstances it was most essential to the House to endeavour to keep itself as pure as possible. The true interests of the Crown would never suffer by Parliament, even were there not a single placeman sitting on the benches; and at the same time such a Parliament would stedfastly maintain the privileges and endeavour to increase the happiness of the people; while it would carefully abstain from the adoption of any measures by which these privileges would be invaded, and that happiness endangered.

Mr. Sheridan said, he agreed with many parts of the speech of the Hon. Gent. who had just sat down, but thought he had not quite done himself justice; for he not only put the House in possession of his future motion, but of his future speech.—(*a laugh.*) As to those points of his speech which went to object to offices being granted to Members of that House, he should agree with his Hon. Friend (if he would permit him so to call him) if he could do away ancient and deep-rooted prejudices. If his Hon. Friend could persuade all Noblemen and persons of a certain rank in life to forego their wishes for such

offices as the Postmaster General's, and others of the like kind, (*a laugh*) he should be very happy to coincide with him. There was one part of his speech, however, in which he could not agree with his Hon. Friend, and that was, where he arraigned the appointment of Colonel M'Mahon, and argued, that Ministers had been actuated in their conduct on that occasion, in order to curry favour and increase their influence with the Prince. Every one that knew Colonel M'Mahon must be sensible that his conduct in the service of the Prince had been highly honourable, and such as deserved the particular marks of favour with which his Royal Highness had honoured him. His Hon. Friend had said, that he believed Colonel M'Mahon to be an honourable man. He (Mr. S.) thought so too. They were all honourable men (*a laugh*); but his Hon. Friend did not see what right he (Colonel M.) had to the public money. As to the fight, there were certainly more ways then one of deserving remuneration for long, tried, and faithful services; and in appointing him to the office in question, no doubt the Prince was actuated by such motives as he thought just and right. If his Hon. Friend thought the place ought to be abolished, let him make a Motion on the subject; and if the House should be of the same opinion, he had no doubt Colonel M'Mahon would willingly resign it. He differed with several of his Hon. Friends who thought the House had done wrong in not leaving to the Prince of Wales the entire regulation of his Majesty's person, &c. He was certain nothing could be more injurious to the Prince's feelings than such a measure would have proved. He differed with them also as to the corrupt influence which it had been argued might be used by the Queen, in consequence of the powers vested in her. The whole tenor of her Majesty's life had shewn that she had never been capable of such conduct; and he verily believed she had accepted the trust from motives of the most tender and affectionate regard to his Majesty, and that she might be able to ascertain to a certainty that every thing was done that could conduce to his Majesty's comfort and convenience. He differed also with them as to the provision alluded to for the Princesses.—He was certain there was no wish for expensive establishments; but that whatever was offered would be gratefully received. He differed also as to the point of objection to the Prince's debts.

After some farther conversation, the House was resumed, and the report of the Committee was ordered to be received to-morrow.—Adjourned.

Wednesday, Jan. 22.

POLICE MAGISTRATES.

Mr. Secretary RYDER observed, that it would be recollected in the last week, on the motion of an Hon. Baronet, (Sir F. Burdett), that a return was ordered of the number of Police Magistrates, in which it was required also that they should state "where there qualifications are, and what they are."—By an Act of Parliament passed for the most wholesome purposes all Magistrates were required, before their appointment, to deliver in a statement of their qualifications, under severe penalties, and the House would observe, that if this order were complied with, it would be demanding of the Magistrates that they should furnish evidence against themselves, which, he apprehended, even the Hon. Baronet himself would not wish to enforce. This objection had been suggested by the Attorney-General, without any communication from any person interested, and he begged therefore to move, that that part of the order be expunged.

Mr. WHITBREAD thought that it could be no very severe hardship upon the Magistrates, even if the order retained its original form: it might be the object of Sir F. Burdett to point out to the House certain Magistrates who had not complied with the provisions of the statute.

Mr. TIERNEY was persuaded that the reason assigned by the Right Hon. Secretary ought to convince the House of the necessity of enforcing the order in its original form, inasmuch as the reason why it was resisted was, that it had been discovered that there were Magistrates who had evaded the provisions of the Act, whom it was, doubtless, the intention of Sir F. Burdett to point out. If the provisions had not been intentionally violated, the House would not certainly proceed with severity. Compliance with the motion proposed would, he feared, lead to the concealment of much abuse.

Mr. PERCEVAL stated, that the order required that the present qualifications should be included, which could only be done by the Magistrates, and it might certainly be used elsewhere as evidence against them.

Lord FOLKESTONE remarked, that the severity of the penalty was a proof of the importance the Legislature attached to the qualification, and yet the very severity of the penalty was adduced as a reason for not complying with the original order.—If the objection were allowed, it might be extended to prevent every species of inquiry.

Mr. BANKES suggested, that the order should be made to apply to the qualifications under which the Magistrates began to act.

The original motion was carried without a division, being, however, modified by Mr. Secretary Ryder, so as to embrace the principle features of Mr. Bankes's suggestion.

THE KING'S HOUSEHOLD.

Upon the question that the Household Bill be read a third time,

Mr. HUTCHINSON said, that he had listened with all his attention to the course of the debates upon the Bill, and he had heard much of what was due to the King; and much of what was due to the Regent, but nothing of what was due to the *People*. Gentlemen seemed to think, that though the People were to pay both, that it was a mere question of how much they should give the King on the one hand, and how much they should give the Queen or the Prince upon the other, without reflecting that it was their first duty, as honest Members of Parliament, to consider rather how *little*, consistent with the exigencies of the State, could be taken from the pockets of an over-taxed People. He had no wish to refuse every supply absolutely necessary—but he could not hear the proposition made to the House, as if the only fit subject of inquiry was, how much an oppressed People could reasonably spare. It was putting the question as if the claims of the Monarch were indefinite—as if the Monarch was every thing, and the People nothing. He was the more jealous of any conduct that could give rise to imputations of that kind, because he knew how to value the monarchical part of the Constitution, and it was because he was anxious that it might always find its seat in the affections of the country, that he was and should be at all times jealous of any misconduct of Ministers that could have a tendency to soil it with suspicion;—every day that passed over them was pregnant with one great lesson, that Monarchies had their best foundation in the reciprocal discharge of the social compact between the governors and the governed.—Was this additional 70,000*l.* a year charged upon the people necessary? Where were the documents—where the evidence to prove its necessity? The Bill also empowered the Prince to reserve 70,000*l.* a year from his Exchequer income, for the purpose of paying his debts. Why not pay them at once? He was aware of his liability to be misunderstood, but that should not deter him from the frank avowal of his sentiments. The public had an interest in having the Royal mind relieved from the degrading difficulties of pecuniary embarrassment. The Royal mind should be devoted to, if not engrossed by, the great care of providing for the security and honour of his people—but pecuniary pressures were of that nature, that where they existed, they must be peculiarly goading to every well organized mind, whether the individual was a peasant or a Prince. He thought it, therefore, a public duty to remove at once this unseemly load from the head of the government—but the measure proposed by Ministers left this weight of debt to linger away by degrees, and not in a dignified manner to be dismissed at once. The Prince's debts, he understood, might, at a rough estimate, be computed at 500,000*l.* This could not be paid off in seven years. The whole had the air of a mean trick of the Ministers, to keep the Prince dependant upon them; and though in that case the result must prove how miserably they had planned, as far as related to the Prince, yet the late debates on the Droits of Admiralty shewed what an alarming fund Ministers had at their disposal. He concluded with strong and general exhat

tations to economy. Things could not long go on as they had done.—Let Ministers begin to think at last, before the time either for deliberating or acting was gone for ever!

Mr. PERCEVAL observed, that the subjects touched upon by the Hon. Member had already been so fully discussed, that he did not think it necessary to enter into any particular reply.

The Bill was then read a third time.—Adjourned to Friday.

Friday, Jan. 31.

The Household Bill passed, after an ineffectual attempt by Mr. BENNETT to exclude Officers of the Household, of the higher classes, from holding Seats in Parliament.

BANKRUPT MEMBERS.

Mr. LOCKHART moved that a Committee be appointed to consider if any and what persons, being Bankrupts, can sit in that House.

Mr. PERCEVAL opposed the motion, on the ground that it would be a hard case to exclude a man,—who in the vacation might become a Bankrupt, and before the meeting might obtain his certificate,—from enjoying his seat, when perhaps his qualification was fully what the law required.

Sir FRANCIS BURDETT approved of the motion.—Government and the Bank were now so connected with commerce, that he was not surprised at the extraordinary privileges held out to fraudulent Bankrupts.—If this system was continued, the Poets words should be written over the door of the House—

"Bankrupts fortunes mended here."

Men of such a description were liable to a very just suspicion of undue influence. They were unfit to be Members of that House. Parliament should purify itself of the monstrous scandal. It was notorious that a Man had *purchased* a Seat merely for the purpose of cheating his creditors, and, without giving a single vote, had left the country with 20,000*l.* of his creditors property.

The motion, however, was negatived without a division!—And a motion, by Sir FRANCIS, to restore that part of the order relative to the Qualifications of Police Magistrates which had been rescinded, was also negatived.—Adjourned till Monday.

LONDON GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY,

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1812.

Downing-Street, January 28, 1811.

Captain O'Donoghue, Acting Aid-de-Camp to Colonel Skerritt, has arrived this morning at Lord Liverpool's Office, with Dispatches from Major General Cooke, of which the following are Copies:—

[General Cooke's Letters are merely introductory to Colonel Skerrett's.]

Tarifa, Jan. 1, 1812.

SIR,—In my last I had the honour to state that the enemy commenced to batter in breach on the 29th December, since which period until yesterday he kept up a heavy fire of cannon on the breach, and of shells on the town, causeway, and island. At eight o'clock on the morning of the 31st December, a strong column was seen rapidly advancing to the breach; our musquetry several times checked the enemy, and the firm front and intrepid behaviour of the troops, in less than an hour, gained a complete victory. The most bold of the enemy fell near the foot of the breach, and the mass of the column made a precipitate retreat.

The situation of the enemy's wounded, with which the ground was covered between his battery and our fire, where they must inevitably have perished, induced me, from motives of compassion, to hoist a flag of truce to carry them off. Some were brought into the place over the breach, but from the extreme difficulty attending this, I allowed the enemy to carry the remainder away. General Leval, the French Commander in Chief, expressed his acknowledgment for the conduct of the British and Spanish nations on this occasion in the most feeling and grateful terms. We have made prisoners ten officers and twenty or thirty soldiers; the enemy's loss has been very severe; the column that attacked the breach was two thousand men, composed of all the grenadiers and voltigeurs of the army. The enemy invested this town on the 20th December, since which time one thousand British and seven or eight hundred Spanish troops, with only the defence of a wall, which appears to have been built as a defence against archery, and before the use of gunpowder, have resisted an army of ten thousand men, with a regular battering train of artillery, and have at last defeated and repulsed them. The wall of the town has the additional disadvantage of being commanded within half musquet shot, and flanked or taken in reverse in almost every part. The conduct of all the troops has been admirable, and that of Lieut.-Col. Gough, and the 2d battalion of the 87th regiment, exceeds all praise. Equal credit is due to the indefatigable exertions of Captain Smith's Royal Engineers, to whom much of our success is due. I have on all occasions received the greatest assistance from the military experience and the great exertions of Lieut.-Colonel Lord Proby, second in command.

We have to regret the loss of two officers killed, Lieutenant Longley, Royal Engineers, and Lieut. Hall, 47th Regiment,—I have, &c. J. B. SKERRETT, Colonel.

To Major-General Cooke, &c.

Return of killed, wounded, and missing on the 31st December, 1811.

Total—2 officers, 7 rank and file, killed; 2 officers, 25 rank and file wounded.

Names of Officers killed and wounded.

Royal Engineers—Lieutenant Longley, killed.

2d Batt. 47th Reg.—Lieutenant Hall, killed; Lieutenant Hill, slighily wounded.

2d. Batt. 87th Reg.—Lieutenant M. Carroll and Ensign Waller, slightly wounded.

Tarifa, Jan. 5. 1812.

SIR,—In my letter of the 1st instant, I had the honour to relate the particulars of our proceedings here and of our victory at the breach. Since that period the enemy has kept up a partial fire, and the breach was yesterday completely open for a space of twenty-five or thirty yards.

From the movements of the enemy last night, I was induced to suppose he intended another assault, and the garrison waited in eager expectation to give him another proof of British valour. To our astonishment, this morning at day light the columns of the enemy were already at a distance, having taken advantage of a dark and stormy night to make a precipitate retreat, leaving in our possession all his artillery, ammunition, stores, &c. I immediately ordered Major Broad, with a part of the 47th regiment, to follow the enemy; he took possession of his artillery, waggons, and a quantity of stores, time enough to save them from the flames, the enemy having set fire to them. We have made some prisoners. From the number of dead found on the ground the enemy occupied, his loss on the whole must have been very great. Marshal Victor was present in the French camp, to give orders for the retreat.

We have thus seen the greatest effort the French are capable of making frustrated by eighteen hundred British and Spanish troops, with only the defence of a paltry wall; and an army of ten thousand men, commanded by a Marshal of France, retreating from them silently in the night, after having been repulsed and defeated, leaving behind all their artillery and stores, collected at a great expense and by immense exertions. I enclose a return of artillery and stores taken from the enemy. The unremitting vigilance and exertion, the zeal and intrepidity of every individual of this garrison, is above praise. I have the honour to dispatch this by my Acting Aid-de-Camp, Captain O'Donoghue, of the 47th Regiment, who is in possession of every information relative to my proceedings at this place; an Officer of great merit and considerable length of service.

I have the honour to be, &c.—J. B. SKERRETT, Col.

To Major-General Cooke, &c.

[Here follow two letters from Commodore Penrose, respecting the naval operations off Tarifa. They merely serve to throw a light upon the *cause* of the retreat of the French from before Tarifa, upon which Colonel Skerrett is so magnanimously silent.—A passage in the first letter states,—"Accounts from Tarifa agree, that the extreme bad weather and incessant rains have reduced the French army to great distress, and it is certain that sickness prevails in a great degree, and that they are in great want of bread and wine, but no appearance of re-

treat had been yet indicated;" and the Commodore, in his second communication, with that candour and love of truth which always mark an honourable mind, adds,—"I have now the very great satisfaction to request you to inform their Lordships, that I have just received the intelligence that the enemy, after making some demonstrations of an assault during last night, broke up from before Tarifa, leaving seven brass eighteen-pounders and two howitzers spiked, with ammunition waggons, tools, &c. In addition to the gallant repulse which I have before mentioned in the attempt of the French, and the fire from our guns, which have been most ably worked, both on the land and from our ships and boats when occasion offered, the enemy has had to encounter such excessive rains, attended with want of provisions and every species of shelter, that it is just to give him great credit for his persevering so long as he did."]

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Downing-street, January 25.

A Dispatch, of which the following is an Extract, was this morning received at Lord Liverpool's Office, addressed to his Lordship by General Viscount Wellington, dated Gallegos, Jan. 9, 1812.

I invested Ciudad Rodrigo yesterday. Since the enemy have had possession of the place they have constructed a palisadoed redoubt on the hill of St. Francisco, and have fortified three convents in the suburb, the defence of which are connected with the work on the hill of St. Francisco, and with the old line by which the suburb was surrounded. By these means the enemy have increased the difficulty of approaching the place; and it was necessary to obtain possession of the work on the hill of St. Francisco before we could make any progress in our attack.—Accordingly Major-Gen. Craufurd directed a detachment of the light division, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Colbourne, of the 52d regiment, to attack the work shortly after it was dark. The attack was very ably conducted by Lieut.-Colonel Colburne, and the work was taken by storm in a short time; two Captains and 47 men were made prisoners, and *the remainder of the garrison were put to the sword.* We took three pieces of cannon. I cannot sufficiently applaud the conduct of Lieut.-Col. Colbourne, and of the detachment under his command, upon this occasion. I am happy to add, that our loss in this affair has not been very severe, six men having been killed;—Capt. Mein and Lieut. Woodgate, of the 52d, Lieut. Hawksley, of the 95th, (wounded severely, but not dangerously) and 14 men.

The success of this operation enabled us immedintely to break ground within 600 yards of the place, notwithstanding the enemy still held the fortified convents; and the enemy's work has been turned into a part of our first parallel, and a good communication made with it. Lieut.-Gen. Hill arrived at Merida on the 30th of December. He had hoped to surprise Gen. Dombrouski (who, I had been led to imagine, was killed in Gen. Hill's last affair with the enemy) in that town; but his advanced guard was discovered on the 29th by a patrole from a small detachment of the enemy, which happened to be at La Nava, which effected its retreat to Merida, notwithstanding the efforts of a detachment of Lieut.-Gen. Hill's cavalry to prevent it.—Gen. Dombrouski retired from Merida in the night, leaving a magazine of bread, and one hundred and sixty thousand pounds of wheat in the town, and several unfinished works, which the enemy had been constructing. On the 1st, Gen. Hill moved forward with the intention of attacking Gen. Drouet, who commands the 5th corps, at Almendralejo. This General, however, retired upon Zafra, leaving a magazine in the town, containing four hundred and fifty thousand pounds of wheat, and some barley. On the 3d, Lieut.-Gen. Hill sent a detachment, consisting of the 28th regiment and two squadrons of the 2d Hussars, some squadrons of the 10th Portuguese Cavalry, to Fuente del Maestre, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Abercromby. Our cavalry defeated a body of the enemy's cavalry which was there, having taken two officers and 30 men prisoners.

Lieut.-Gen. Hill, having found that Gen. Drouet had retreated upon Llerena, and that it would be impossible for him to follow to a greater distance, returned to Merida on the 5th, in order to place the troops under his command in better cantonments during the bad weather.

I have the honour to enclose letters from Lieut.-Gen. Hill, of the 30th December, 2d and 6th of January, giving an account of his operations, returns of killed, wounded, &c.

[Gen. Hill's letters follow; but they only state the above facts at greater length.—His loss in the different affairs amounted only to three men and 16 horses killed—and 40 men and 37 horses wounded and missing.—The only officer wounded was Lieut. Issendorf, of the German Legion, slightly.]

BANKRUPTS.

J. Andersen, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, flax-dresser.
W. Atkinson, Liverpool, liquor-merchant.
G. Baker, jun. Stanton-Prior, Somersetshire, butcher.
S. Ballenger, Cheltenham, butcher.
W. Banister, Litchfield, watch-maker.
J. Beeks, Chenies-street, Bedford-square, poulterer.
R. Botterill, York, paper-stainer.
A. Botterill, York, paper-stainer.
C. Dyche, Burton-upon-Trent, butcher.
J. Fruer, Camberwell, Surrey, lime merchant.
W. Gundry, Wellington, Somersetshire, tanner.
W. Grubb, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, wine merchant.
T. Hewitt, Carburton-street, Fitzroy-square, ironmonger.
J. Locket, Cheltenham, tailor.
E. Lord, Roughlee, Lancashire, woollen-manufacturer.
W. Matthews, Islip, Oxfordshire, brewer.
W. Morgan, Llandovery, Carmarthenshire, shopkeeper.
E. Prior, Pickett-street, Temple-bar, fishmonger.
J. Stuart, Leadenhall-street, merchant.
J. Taylor, Chester, corn dealer.
J. R. Thomas, Shepperton, Middlesex, maltster.
T. Worbys, Edmonton, wheelwright.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

This Gazette contains an extract of Letter from Col. Green, in Catalonia, giving an account of the *repulse*, at Garriga, of 4400 of the enemy, by the Spanish General Lacy, with only 1700 men; and some other trifling affairs.—It also contains an account of the capture of L'Invincible French privateer, of 2 guns and 33 men, by the Sparrowhawk sloop, Capt. Pringle;—and a Notice from Whitehall, offering a reward of Fifty Guineas for the discovery of the murderer of Margaret Hoxtable, a child about nine years of age, who was found slaughtered, in a most inhuman manner, in a ditch near Dodbrooke, Devon, on the 22d ult.

BANKRUPTS.

R. Fell, Holloway, Middlesex, plumber.
J. Walker, South-street, Manchester-square, coach-maker.
S. Headen, Lime-street, London, insurance-broker.
J. Birch, Uttoxeter, Stafford, cutler.
S. C. Gregory, Portsmouth, sail-maker.
T. Richards, St. John-street, Clerkenwell, baker.
J. Budden, Portsea, shoe-maker.
J. Mavor, jun. Leadenhall-street, merchant.
J. Ancell, Rushey-mead, Wallington, Surrey, calico-printer.
J. S. Gill, Great Prescott-street, Middlesex, upholsterer.
J. Moorhouse, Stockport, broker.
P. Greaves, Manchester, innkeeper.
J. Harding, White-cross-street, Middlesex, victualler.
W. Blackburn, Humberstone-street, Middlesex, carpenter.
J. Aldridge, Maidenhead, Berks, corn-chandler.
J. Folkard, Great Surrey-street, Blackfriars-road, silversmith.
R. Ratcliff, Monkwearmouth Shore, ship-builder.
H. Hall, jun. Chiswell-street, cheesemonger.
T. Milner, Sheffield, tinman.
T. Palmer, Wood-street, Cheapside, silk-manufacturer.
R. S. Butler, Bristol, victualler.

W. Williams, Honey-lane-market, London, baize-factor.
W. Hoskin, Great Prescot-street, money-scrivener.

SUPPLEMENT TO LONDON GAZETTE, FEB. 1.

Downing-Street, Feb. 1, 1812.

A dispatch, of which the following is an extract, has been this day received by the Earl of Liverpool from General Lord Viscount Wellington, dated Gallegos, January 15, 1812.

We have continued our operations against Ciudad Rodrigo since I addressed you on the 9th instant. We opened our fire from twenty-two pieces of ordnance in three batteries in the first parallel yesterday afternoon; and we opened our approach to and established ourselves in our second parallel, one hundred and fifty yards from the place, last night.

This measure has been facilitated by Lieutenant-General Graham having surprised the enemy's detachment in the Convent of Santa Cruz, close to the body of the place, on the night of the 13th. The right of our approaches was protected and secured by this operation. Major-General the Hon. C. Colville, who commands the 4th Division in the absence of the Hon. Lieutenant-General Cole, likewise attacked the enemy's post in the Convent of San Francesco last night, and obtained possession of that post, and of the other fortified posts in the suburb, where our troops are now lodged. Our left is protected and secured by this operation. Two pieces of cannon were taken in the Convent of San Francesco.

Preparations to a certain extent are making at Salamanca, for the movement of troops in this direction; and I have reports, that troops were to be collected at Salamanca on this day.

We have, till now, had very fine weather, and the troops have suffered but little from exposure to it. I enclose the return of casualties.

Return of Killed, Wounded, and Missing.

TOTAL BRITISH LOSS—1 Captain, 2 Serjeants, 21 rank and file, killed; 1 Major, 3 Lieutenants, 1 Ensign, 6 Serjeants, 179 rank and file, wounded.

TOTAL PORTUGUESE LOSS—5 rank and file killed; 1 Lieutenant, 35 rank and file, wounded.

Names of Officers killed and wounded.

KILLED—Royal Engineers—Captain Ross.
WOUNDED—5th Foot, 2d Batt.—Major Gray, slightly,
83d Foot, 2d Batt.—Lieutenant Matthews, severely.
94th Foot—Lieutenant Bogue, slightly.
7th Portuguese—Lieut. J. P. Benicoe, slightly.
1st Batt. Line, King's German Legion—Lieut. Huvecken, lost both legs; Ensign White, slightly.

N. B. Lieutenant Hawkesley, 95th, wounded on the 8th, since dead.

PRICE OF STOCKS ON SATURDAY.

3 per Cent. Cons. . . . 62¼—Quinton . . . . . ⅛ dis.

Correspondents will perceive the reason why the promised notice of their Communications is delayed.

A Criticism on the *Virgin of the Sun* next week.

The Reply of a FOREIGNER, next week.

The request of F. L. will be complied with.

The TITLE PAGE, PREFACE, and INDEX, for the last Year's *Examiner*, are in preparation, and due notice will be given of the day of publication.

THE EXAMINER.

London, February 2.

In default of better news from abroad, the capture of Tarifa has been exalted into something great; but it is agreed that BLAKE has been totally defeated by SOULT, and that the fall of Valencia is certain; and upon the whole, there is nothing at all in the aspect of Spanish affairs to do away the impression made upon the calm spectators of its condition, and so often repeated in this Paper,—that Spain, after proving what it might have done had it's spirit met with early and proper encouragement, will be conquered by the lingering corruptions of it's upper orders, their divisions, their timidity, and their utter worthlessness.

A most important, and, in it's result, a most melancholy debate on the state of Ireland, took place in the House of Commons on Friday night; but there is neither time nor room to speak of it in this day's *Examiner*. It is observable, however, that the Marquis WELLESLEY, though he voted with his Colleagues, exhibited a great and, indeed, considering that circumstance, a most remarkable difference of opinion from them; and it is to this, perhaps, that a report has arisen of his having tendered his resignation to the PRINCE, who answered him, it is said, by a request to remain in office till the cessation of the Restrictions. "Confusion worse confounded,"—Sir FRANCIS BURDETT's motion for an inquiry into the qualifications of Magistrates, and Mr. LOCKHART's for the future exclusion of Bankrupt-Members, have naturally been lost;—perhaps unnaturally should be the word; but extremes meet; and where all is prodigious, phenomena take a reverse character.

☞

A Supplement to last Night's Gazette was published, containing a Dispatch from Lord WELLINGTON. It relates chiefly to the siege of Ciudad Rodrigo, but mentions some movements of the enemy; and there is every reason to believe that a general Engagement has already taken place.

Colonel SKERRETT, in his dispatches respecting the retreat of the French from Tarifa, evidently conceals the true cause of that retreat. One should think, from his boastful letters, that he had, with less than 2,000 men, beaten 10,000 of the enemy. The simple fact is, as stated by Commodore PENROSE, that it was the dreadful weather, sickness, and want of food, that saved Tarifa:—But for these powerful allies (who are not even mentioned by the gallant Colonel), it is more than probable that he would have been a prisoner instead of a conqueror.

Capt. MAXWELL, of the Alceste, has transmitted to the Marquis of HUNTLEY from Lissa an account of the capture of the Pomone, French frigate, of 44 guns, by the Active, Capt. GORDON. He does not give the particulars of the affair, referring his Lordship for them to the public dispatch (which, however, has not yet been received); but says, that he has requested the French Commander of the Pomone to transmit this letter through the bureau of the French Minister of Foreign Affairs to England, that the gallant Capt. GORDON's father and family might be informed of his doing well.—Capt. GORDON was wounded.

Our readers will recollect, that about two months ago the Austrian Government issued an order directing that French troops should be allowed to pass through the Austrian territories, and that provisions and other necessaries should be afforded them. It is now said, that the French have assembled a powerful force on the Eastern confines of Hungary, and that in the event of hostilities with Russia, France, in connection with an Austrian army, will

come on the rear of the Russian army on the Danube, which has been fighting the Turks. This army, it is thought, BONAPARTE will attempt to seize, and thus make Russia subscribe to such terms as he may choose to dictate to her.—*Courier.*

"We can now distinctly say, that the Noble Marquis (WELLESLEY) has tendered his resignation to the Prince Regent, who made it his personal request to him to continue to hold his Seals until the Restrictions should cease.—Report says, Mr. PERCEVAL was desirous of having a successor appointed, and represented to his Royal Highness that it was necessary for him to strengthen his Administration by appointments, upon which he wished to take the Regent's pleasure. But the Prince intimated to him, that he had requested Lord WELLESLEY to remain in office for the present.—Upon this the Public will form their own judgment."—*Morning Chronicle, Feb.* 1.

The Judges yesterday assembled to take the case of *Mr. Walsh* into consideration. They did not, however, come to any conclusion upon it.

In the Court of King's Bench, Dublin, the trial of Mr. KIRWAN commenced on the 27th ult.—His Counsel challenged all the Jurors, upon the ground of their having been improperly selected by the Crown Officers.—The proceedings at length have not reached London, but it is understood that the Court (as might well be expected) decided against the challenge.

Sir W. SCOTT has decided, in the case of POUGET *v.* TOMKINS, that the Marriage of the younger POUGET with LUCRETIA TOMKINS is void, because the Christian name of PETER, by which the young gentleman was called, was omitted in the publication of the banns.—Will not this determination enable many a well-dressed scoundrel to cheat and ruin defenceless females?

Gawler, who lately defrauded the Admiralty Board, has been taken at Newcastle, whither he had fled in a collier.

The riots in Nottinghamshire still continue, and an additional military force has been dispatched into that county.—At Glasgow, too, apprehensions are entertained of similar outrages, from the same cause,—the want of employment.—Nothing, says the *Courier*, can be more prosperous than the present condition of the country!—(For "country," read "placemen and pensioners.")

In the Common Council, on Thursday, there was a full attendance, for the purpose of taking into consideration the Report of a Select Committee appointed to inquire into the state of the two Regiments of the London Militia.—Mr. Alderman WOOD brought up the Report, which was read. It recommended the disbanding of the two regiments on account of the heavy expence, and in their room the substitution of a species of force similar to the Local Militia, to be trained fourteen or twenty-eight days in the year.—The report being read, the question was put, "that the Court do agree with their Committee in the said report."—After a debate, in which it was admitted that there was much abuse in the management of these Militia Regiments, the motion was negatived by a considerable majority.

"A truly pernicious system (says a Correspondent), has been long carrying on between the Collectors of the Assessed Taxes in different parishes and a professional man who holds a lucrative situation in the Tax Office. It seldom happens that a tradesman is prepared to pay his taxes upon the first or even second application (provided even a second be made) which is not always the case; such inability, however, subjects him to the appellation of a defaulter, which is made known to him by a printed notice left open at his house or shop with the servant, threatening him with a warrant of distress, &c. &c. Upon the receipt of which, he probably calls upon the Collector, to enquire the reason for such harsh, unwarrantable proceedings, and to his astonishment is informed, that orders are given by the Lawyer to the Collectors, to return the names of all persons that are backward in their payments to him, in order that he may send them a letter, his charge for which is never less than 6*s.* 8*d.*; sometimes 13*s.* 4*d.* according to the customer. This letter-writing, it is said, was an admirable trade last year, and produced no less a sum than 100*l.* from one parish at the West End. This iniquitous jobbing is all carried on under a legal mask. The public should resist such vile imposition, for they may be assured that Government sanction no such impolitic proceedings."

OATHS TAKING.

MR. EXAMINER,—Some short time since, I had occasion to apply at a certain Police-Office to make an Affidavit. After waiting a considerable time, I was told by the Clerk that the Magistrate was at that moment *particularly engaged*; but that as he was *only* in the adjoining room, he (the Clerk) would administer the oath. After having done so, he proceeded with the paper to which I had sworn through a short passage, and upon his opening and entering through a door *which was on his right* hand, I heard something like the noise of *the jingling of glasses, and a convivial conversation going on.* In three minutes the Clerk returned, when I perceived, at the foot of the paper, was written the words, "*Sworn before me* ——— (signed) ——— one of the Magistrates of ——— street."

This, Mr. Examiner, was the first time I had ever occasion to make an affidavit "*before a sitting Magistrate*," as it is called. How far, therefore, it may be a nominal matter for our worthy Magistrates to write "sworn *before me*" at the foot of affidavits, when in fact they neither *see* the parties, nor even *hear* the oath administered to them, I own I am perfectly ignorant. However, I must confess, when I observed he had presumed to write in such positive terms as the words—"*before me*"—imply, I certainly did think that I should at least have been *entitled* to a sight of his Worship's presence.—I am, Sir, your humble servant,

Jan. 31, 1812. A CONSTANT READER.

THE HOUSEHOLD BILL.

Wednesday, January 29, 1812.

SIR,—In the debates which have taken place upon the Household Bill (as it is called), a most extraordinary contest has taken place, for the combatants have evinced not the hostility of discordance, but the more fatal jealousy of coincidence. The object of the contending parties appears to me, to be neither more nor less than this—to endeavour to gain the favour of the Regent, by different modes of subserviency and compliance; and indeed it is rather a subject of lamentation, that in so amiable and patriotic a contest all cannot succeed. Now, Mr. Examiner, I have been thinking, how much better it would be, instead of having a large Court Establishment for the Regent, and a small one for the Queen, to have two establishments sufficient to take in the coinciding opponents. But Mr. Brougham must

not be admitted, for he has had the unmanly indelicacy to insinuate softly, that no notice has been taken of the Princess of Wales, and that owing to her not living (as a wife should do) with her husband, an additional establishment and expence has fallen upon the funds of the public. What a plain-spoken man this Mr. Brougham is! and he even went so far as to insinuate that the Queen engrossed no small share of attention in the provisions of the Bill, whilst the wife of the Regent had been entirely unnoticed. Aye, and Mr. Bennett, too, had the impudence to say, that the Queen's Household Pensioners ought not to have Seats in Parliament, and that the honourable Col. M'Mahon, even if he were an angel, for such sublime goodness alone (having rendered no public service) was not entitled to his Pension. But this was an assertion Mr. Sheridan most argumentatively and conclusively answered, in reminding Mr. Bennett "that the Earl of Tankerville had no objection to office;" a circumstance as inconsistent with the opinion of Mr. Bennett, as an honourable appeal to the discharge of tradesmens bills from one who never paid any.

A GOOD PAYMASTER.

THE KING'S ILLNESS.

MEDICAL BULLETIN.

"*Windsor Castle, Jan.* 25

"His Majesty is nearly in the same state in which he was previous to the late increase of his disorder."

The *Examiner* of last week contained Mr. LUCETT's account of the *infallible* recipe he says he possesses for the cure of madness, which he had offered in vain to the KING's Physicians and Ministers.—A correspondent, *whose veracity is undoubted*, says that Mr. LUCETT has put forth a manifest falsehood, in asserting that Mr. MORGAN has been cured by this recipe. So far from it, even on Saturday week, Mr. MORGAN's disorder was so violent, that he was obliged to be constrained by the straight waistcoat; and though the sufferer has been repeatedly under the application of Mr. LUCETT's "infallible" remedy, *he has never ceased to be insane*, and is at this moment (Jan. 28) in the most afflicting state of the malady.—It thus plainly appears, that if a certificate of Mr. MORGAN's cure was sent to Mr. PERCEVAL, it must have been a most infamous fabrication. Mr. MORGAN has a wife and six children.—Mrs. M. "in consequence of her husband's unhappy condition, is now seeking some long-promised remuneration from Government for his former very essential services during the Irish Rebellion."—"Thus Mr. LUCETT," says our correspondent, "may possibly be doing an irreparable injury to an unhappy family, by putting forth his false statement to the world."

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

No. 108.

COVENT-GARDEN.

No institutions have so much declined from their original purposes, or are so likely in their nature to decline, as those of feasts, fasts, and other church ordinances, which depend on times and feelings that cannot possibly last. Thus we have Saints'-days in our calendar, of which nobody ever dreams but those who get a holiday by them: the celebration of some of them is even confined to particular schools and foundations; and then the holy personage is only regarded as a sort of annual procurer of a play-day, as one Bishop HUGH for instance, whose name is attached to the 17th of November, and to whom my schoolfellows used to reckon themselves under particular though mysterious obligations on that account. In like manner, not even the political feelings connected with the sanctification of the 30th of January, a day of fasting and mortification, could prevent it from degenerating into uses ludicrously foreign to its design; and all that it now does of any consequence, is to enable the young clerks in office to go visiting and feasting with their sweethearts, and two worthy persons of the name of ASHLEY to put some money in their pockets by playing the fiddle.

The Oratorio conducted by these gentlemen was commenced accordingly on Thursday last, and consisted of a Selection made on the usual principle, from the works of HANDEL, HAYDN, and others,—with the addition of this innovation,—that Italian singing was introduced, and CATALANI and TRAMEZZANI made their appearance as the principal performers. The audience did not entirely relish this novelty; and though the disapprobation was as one to fifty, and was ultimately silenced by the charm of CATALANI's inspired voice, yet it seems to have arisen from a proper feeling, for Italian singing already enjoys a large and superior sphere of its own in this country, and if suffered to extend it in encroachments like these, will leave no room for the growth and habitation of our native art. Neither does it appear to be the real interest of these two singers,—of one of them, most certainly not,—to exhibit themselves on such an occasion; for TRAMEZZÁNI, whose vocal powers are so much inferior to his taste, and who wants every assistance that a theatre can furnish him, loses five parts of himself when he is not acting; and Madame CATALANI, who excels in giving what may be called a flow of spirits to a voice, does not appear to advantage in those simple and devout songs of HANDEL, with which, it seems, she is occasionally to treat us in the English words. On the present occasion, for instance, she sung "Angels ever bright and fair;" but it was plain, by her shakes and ornaments, either that the meaning and general character of the words had not been properly explained to her, or that she had not a taste sufficiently primitive and unsophisticated for that exquisitely abstracted melody, the singer of which is supposed to be anticipating the stroke of death, and to be wrapped up in a few grand and unearthly anticipations of the society of the blest.—Setting aside these material objections, it is impossible not to be pleased with the taste of Signor TRAMEZZANI, and not to be enchanted with the wonders of CATALANI; but it is unfortunate for him to stand by her side; the difference between their powers is too great and surprising. The heaving gentleness of his voice is full of sensibility, and he plays very agreeably with a turn or little wandering of notes before conclusion; but compared with Madame CATALANI's warmth of feeling and vividness of execution, it is mere feebleness and timidity, and a stealing about in the dark. She occasionally throws out a note which reaches us at a distance like vocal lightning, and makes us wonder what her voice would be if she exerted it through a whole song; but this vehemence and swell she can contrast with the utmost delicacy and tenuity of warbling; her shake on the

upper tones is pure, chrystal quivering, like water in sunshine, and seems as if it would be as perpetual; and when she suddenly springs aloft from a low note to one of inconceivable height and fineness, dropping down from thence a few still, small utterances, you might shut your eyes, and fancy a fairy being, who has shot up to the music of the spheres, and with one finger after another touches them to our distant ears.

It will easily be supposed, that the other singers were quite eclipsed; but to shew the power of unaffected simplicity, it is observable, that after Madame CATALANI had been heard, Mrs. BLAND's singing was much more agreeable than that of Mrs. DICKONS, whose voice and manner coming into a sort of rivalry with those of the enchantress, became almost obnoxious. Nor did she vindicate the best English style of singing, by a proper attention to the composer's expression. The character for instance, of HAYDN's beautiful song, "With verdure clad," is a gradual and as it were plastic benevolence, expressive of the growth of the herbs and plants and their genial effect upon the senses; but Mrs. DICKONS took every opportunity of interspersing it with ornament, and frisked and fluttered about like a romp in a hay-field, instead of expressing the fine, intellectual enjoyment of a soul contemplating creation.

Upon the whole, an Oratorio is a very laudable and elevating entertainment, and with the help of a little of that theoretical knowledge, which a good ear may always pick up, and which is as necessary to a true relish of music as a certain connoisseurship is to that of painting, would be found thoroughly delightful to a multitude of persons who now think it tedious. The sweetness of the solos, the intermingling richness of the trios and quartetts, and the world of grandeur in the chorusses, present us with all the variety of which the human song is capable; and if ever there should be added to such an enjoyment as this, that of fine poetry for the whole of the words, and of fine painting for the walls of the music-room, as may be reasonably hoped in a country like our's,—we shall have witnessed the height and perfection of intellectual luxury.—I cannot deny myself, at the close of this article, the pleasure of transcribing that noble, Platonic effusion of MILTON, which he wrote upon some such occasion as the present, and which has been very finely set to music, I understand, by Mr. STAFFORD SMITH. Why do we not hear it at the Oratorios? It is, of all other pieces, suited to their object, and is calculated to make us, as the Poet himself must have been when it was meditated, all unclouded ear and glorious abstraction.

AT A SOLEMN MUSICK.

BLEST pair of Syrens, pledges of Heaven's joy,
Sphere-born harmonious sisters Voice and Verse,
Wed your divine sounds, and mix'd power employ,
Dead things with inbreath'd sense able to pierce;
And to our high-rais'd phantasy present
That undisturbed song of pure concent,
Aye sung before the sapphire-colour'd throne
To HIM that sits thereon,
With saintly shout and solemn jubilee;
Where the bright Seraphim, in burning row,
Their loud, uplifted angel-trumpets blow;
And the cherubick host, in thousand quires,
Touch their immortal harps of golden wires,
With those just Spirits that wear victorious palms,
Hymns devout and holy psalms
Singing everlastingly;
That we on earth, with undiscording voice,
May nightly answer that melodious noise,
As once we did, till disproportion'd sin
Jarr'd against nature's chime, and with harsh din
Broke the fair music that all creatures made
To their great LORD, whose love their motions sway'd
In perfect diapason, whilst they stood
In first obedience, and their state of good.
O, may we soon again renew that song
And keep in tune with Heav'n, till GOD ere long
To his celestial consort us unite
To live with him and sing in endless morn of light!

THE OPERA.

SIR,—The advantage of competition in dramatic concerns was never made more manifest, than by the reformation it has effected at the King's Theatre. That insolence which utterly contemned all opinion but it's own, no sooner hears of rivalry, than it softens down into an anxiety to please, which, whether real or feigned, produces alike the good effect of increasing the amusement of the public.—The proceedings at the Pantheon, however improbable it may be that they should meet with success, have at least produced some benefit, in setting Mr. TAYLOR's interest on the alarm, and rousing him from his state of torpor. The old ballet-masters, and some of the most indifferent performers, have been dismissed, the dresses and decorations have discarded their former appendages of dust and rags, and the scenery brightening up, has at length assumed something like the appearance of nature. Good music too has lent it's aid, and PORTOGALLO's opera of *La Semiramide*, which is of all the best calculated for Madame CATALANI's surprising power of voice, has succeeded to the compositions of the dull tribe, who have so long held arbitrary sway over good taste.

The novelties produced already have been a divertisement, of little merit, and a fairy ballet, which amply compensates for the defects of the other. This is styled *Zelis, ou la Foret aux Aventures*,—the Adventures of the Forest,—and simply relates the stratagems of a congress of fairies, to prove the fidelity of a pastoral swain, who, on manfully resisting their allurements, is rewarded, as is usual on such occasions, with the hand of his favourite fair. Monsieur DIDELOT, formerly principal dancer at the opera, and now from Russia, is the author of this production, and much credit is due to him for the pleasing entertainment he has formed on this trivial subject, by happily combining the action and dances, so as agreeably to relieve each other. Formerly rigid etiquette prevented the performers from appearing otherwise than in formal succession, according to their degree of merit, and the ballets were merely a series of dances, without meaning, and without any relation to the subject of the piece. The tediousness of this absurd system M. DIDELOT's good sense has taught him to perceive and avoid, and the performers are now made subservient to the effect of the piece, and not the piece to the vanity and scrupulous punctilios of the performers. Some of the unfortunate pupils of M. D'EGVILLE, with young BYRNE, and a few others of little talent, are still retained; but being thrown in the back ground, merely to heighten the general effect of the scene, are no longer obtrusive.

VESTRIS, ANGIOLINI, Mr. NOBLE, and Madame DIDELOT, are the only prominent performers. The two first have

already obtained their share of applause, and NOBLE is a young man of promising talent; but the whole are far surpassed by Madame DIDELOT, who combines much mental feeling with the graces of form and motion—a rare talent among dancers, who in general seem to fix all their ambition on the attainment of more bodily exertion, and to think,—perhaps in that instance a remarkable proof of self-knowledge,—that the efforts of their heels are better capable of amusing us than those of their heads. Madame DIDELOT is, however, a striking exception, and, in the new ballet, enters into all the sports and frolics of fairy land, with a zeal and delight that would almost make one suspect her to be an inhabitant of that region of mischief.

I cannot conclude without congratulating M. VENUA on the improvement of his taste. The music of *Zelis* is suitable to it's subject, light, airy, and playful, and plainly evinces that he has at last discovered, that, to obtain fame, he must avoid the old track, worn bare by our dramatic composers, and abandon his old habit of decorating himself in ornaments pilfered from the treasures of others. His overture, however, is too much like a movement of FIORILLO, to exempt him altogether from the charge of plagiarism;—still, if he goes on improving as he latterly has done, I must certainly use all my interest to have his name expunged from the congregation of quacks, which appeared in one of the early *Examiners*. H. R.

FINE ARTS.

BRITISH INSTITUTION.

The emulation excited by the British Institution, and so conspicuous in its effects in last year's Royal Academy Exhibition, is productive this year of an increase of merit surpassing any former season. The prizes generously bestowed by the Institution are contended for by seven candidates,—Mrs. ANSLEY, Messrs. DRUMMOND, GRATTAN, HAYDON, JOSEPH, SHARPE, and BIRD. Mr. GRATTAN is a promising young artist from Dublin. Mr. JOSEPH'S *Procession to Mount Calvary* is a considerable advance in his art.—Mr. HAYDON has also gained a higher elevation up the difficult and sublime ascent of Historic Painting, and the public will view with infinite pleasure his truly energetic, original and grand performance, representing *Macbeth the instant before he murdered Duncan*.—Mr. SHARPE has not been deficient either in industry or ardour. His picture of the *Connoisseur* is in every respect superior to his former pieces.—Mr. BIRD'S *Chery Chace* possesses a forcible pathos.—Mr. PERIGAL'S *Aridæus and Euridice* is an animated performance.—Mr. DAWE'S *Maniac* is replete with energy of character.—Mr. TURNBULL'S *Sortie of the Garrison of Gibraltar*, presents a striking contrast to the tameness of his *Woman taken in Adultery*.—Mr. LANE'S *Christ derided*, is conspicuous in drawing and expression.—Mr. COLLINS'S *May-day* is brilliant and tasteful in colour, and interesting in character.—Mr. CALCOTT has some beautiful Landscapes.—There are some pleasing pictures by other Academicians.—Mrs. C. STONE'S *View of Warder Castle* is painted with vigour, and the composition is elegant.—Among others worthy of praise are pictures by the Misses GOLDSMITH and PALMER, Messrs. BATE, B. and T. BARKER, J. J. CHALON, CORBOULD, CLENNELL, FIELDING, FREARSON, HOPLAND, IBBETSON, DE LA MOTTE, R. R. REINAGLE, TOWN, &c. &c.—As the Gallery will open to the public to-morrow, the *Examiner* will continue its remarks on the pictures.—A fine painting by P. VERONESE, *of the Communion of St. Jerome*, lately purchased by the Directors of the British Institution at the price of 1500 guineas, forms a valuable embellishment of the Gallery.

R. H.

TO THE CRITIC ON BARRY'S WORKS IN THE *EDINBURGH REVIEW*, AUG. 1810.

[CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK.]

I have no doubt, Sir, your sophism about great pictures, and your doubtful sneers at the grand, severe style, must have given exquisite delight to all those who had fruitlessly attempted them, for nothing is more grateful to the disappointed indolence of men, than to hear the things they have unsuccessfully struggled to attain, sophistically talked of as if unworthy of attainment. But, Sir, if instead of doubtfully sneering at the grand style, you had sneered at the palpable absurdities of the Exhibition, at the girls feeding chicken and boys feeding pigs, and children fetching water from the well, standing in the water up to their ancles, thereby the artist judiciously concealing feet he could not draw, with one hand in their pitchers and the other in their pockets, thereby with equal taste and judgment concealing hands: if you had sneered at *these*, you would have shewn greater feeling for the taste of your country, than taking the ignorant practice of incompetent artists as a proof of the absurdity of that they professed to do. The grand style is a style which alone can give rank to "this England in art," and which only wants rank in such matters to be the greatest nation the world has ever yet seen. Notwithstanding, Sir, the perfect justice of your disbelief that there ever was a cabal, among the Academicians, who held nightly consultations, in order to consider and arrange the most effectual method of stopping Barry's key hole with dust, robbing his house, or tampering with his engravers,—(indeed it is impossible to help laughing in reading Barry's *Life*, to see to what a length and to what ridiculous suspicions his morbidity of temper drove him,)—yet I affirm, there are a set of artists who would willingly see high art sink, and secretly give her a stab while sinking; there are a set whose imbecile prejudices against the rising Students are apparent, and against the Institution, and against every person and every place that will foster and protect them; composed of all those who find that travelling to Italy, copying in the Vatican, lounging in the coffee-houses, will not give them that power which nature has denied them; composed of all those who have struggled a short time in the higher walks of art, then sunk into picture-dealers, and then sunk into nothing; composed of all those whose power depends in party and not in painting, and who know the moment the Students are well grounded in the means of their art, and the peoples' eyes are opened, will lose the little they have in either. Such is the palpable truth of what I assert, that no man of common observation can deny it. One of these told me, with rapture in his eyes, that Government had refused to assist the British Institution! Another, that art was a thing that the Academy had a right to keep to itself!—When the Institution was founded, *then* it was merely to encourage the young; and when by the purchase of West's picture this was completely falsified, *then* this was not real patronage!—*Oh no*, Mr. West was an *old* man, and it was *merely* a reward for his life. It is always the character of envy to attribute the success of the envied to *any cause* but *its*

merit:—hence the hatred of the Academicians to the Gallery, because it will afford an opening to those who exhibit careful and legitimate excellence; hence their abuse of the Directors, because they tremble at their firm establishment; hence their proceedings for ten years past; and hence their proceedings for fifty years to come.

The Royal Academy was founded by his Majesty to give a consequence to the art (then emerging) in the opinion of the people, to honour the eminent Artists then existing, and lay a firm foundation in design, that England might one day rival Greece. Reynolds, then in the full blaze of his reputation, during the first years of its establishment, conducted it with an elevation of view, at once shewing himself worthy of its honours, and capable of putting every thing in a train for realizing the intentions of the King; but in a short time intriguing imbecility and ignorance crept in, and finding their total incapability to excite attention and gain ascendancy by their works, they set about intriguing. Reynolds's reputation ensured them a host of detractors and enviers; a strong party was soon formed to check his propositions, thwart his views, and lower that power, the result of genius and industry, by paltry cabals, which they were hopeless of effecting by other methods: by degrees, none but those who were not likely to trouble them by propositions for the benefit of art were admitted; and the Academy is now become nearly filled with men who have made its honours a means of elevating to a rank in society, to which, had there been no Academy, their talents or their acquirements would have never urged them to dare. No man of extended notions, enlightened by education, or with powers from nature, can obtain a hearing; such would soon, *they know*, oppose their views and check their power; but those only have a chance of success, whose previous humbleness of extraction and enlightenment cause them to look up to the Academy with a sort of awe, and to regard a Member with a cringing smile and a bending bow, as if their existence depended on his will. These are the principles of their conduct, and will yet fill the Academy with such a set of members whose only object will be to accumulate funds and increase pensions till the purposes of its foundation are forgotten, and high art and elevation of view are sunk in the three per Cents.:—not that the Academy have any objection to talent, far from it; but it must be so diluted with humbleness and a love of quiet, as will be regardless of asserting that superiority to which it would be entitled: in this case it becomes a sanction to their intrigues:—they have it under their thumbs. It is their object to get in as many men of talent as will keep their Exhibition from falling into insignificance, and no more than will leave their power untouched or untrespassed upon. Who does not see that the Academy has completely failed in realizing the intentions of the King? The greater part of the present Members are its product, and who more ill-grounded in art? The Academy and its honours only serve to give power to a set, who, without them, would never have emerged from that insignificance to which nature had destined them. They were going on ruining high art in the opinions of the people, keeping every Picture of real promise out of sight, and then excusing their own inefficacious attempts by complaining that high art would never do in this country, as if it proceeded from Indifference in the People, and the want of encouragement in the Patrons. The founding the Institution roused them a little from their torpor, and will always prove an excellent check. They say, that if any grant is made by Government for the benefit of Art, it should be made to them—To them! for what? that they might have the enjoyment of squabbling at fifty general meetings before they could settle how it could be disposed of? Instead of putting more power into hands of men who know not how to use what they have, let every wellwisher to the advance of Art, struggle with all his might to diminish it, for in proportion as their power is *diminished* or *encreased*, so will the public taste be *purified* or *debauched*. The Royal Academy, instead of becoming, as the King intended it, a vehicle of grand Art, and improving and elevating the minds of the people, from being placed in the hands of incompetence, is become a *vast organ* of *bad taste* and *corruption*.

The Institution, if, for twenty years, conducted with the liberality it has hitherto been conducted, and with a firm determination in the Directors to foster and protect high Art, and correct and finished excellence *only*, wherever they find it,—if they persevere as they have excellently began, and not suffer the sneers of envy to discourage them, because that feeling for correctness which they wish to excite among the Students, may not in less than two or three years be perceptible (for twenty years habitual debauchery of taste is not to be eradicated in a day,)—if they resolve not to allow themselves to be drawn off from their plan of premiums, by any insidious advice in the shape of a better method,—they will ultimately do *that*, the Academy has failed to do, and will ever fail to do, unless it should be remodelled and regenerated; unless the present mass of preponderating weakness be rooted out, and the walls whitewashed, and the rooms sprinkled with vinegar, as they do when a house has been gutted by the plague. They have elected Wilkie, it may be said: surely he is a man of talent.—A man of talent!—a man of the greatest genius in his walk of art the world ever saw:—Yes; they have elected him, but how have they used him? Envious of the rank to which they dared not refuse to raise him, they have popped into the centre of the exhibition a man as a competitor, though totally deficient in mechanic excellence, and absolutely without that exquisite, innocent, real humour, so inimitable in Wilkie. I will do the justice to their perception, and suppose, they *know* better than seriously to think they *really* consider him for one moment as a rival:—"A performance, indeed," says Goldsmith, "may be forced for a time into reputation, but destitute of real merit, it soon sinks: time, the touchstone of what is truly valuable, will soon discover the fraud;" time, indeed, will shew that Mr. Bird owes the notice taken of him in *this* style of Art, to his being placed near Wilkie, with an appearance of competition. Nothing, indeed, is more beneficial to art, or more likely to produce excellence, than a just and fair opportunity for competition between men of talent: the wickedness is in those that have the power to excite such competition, affecting raptures and puffing ignorance into notice, for the mere purpose of lowering those they fear. Mr. Shee (whose disinterested bustle for the advance of Art does him so much honour) has advised that if his plan of premiums was adopted, Academicians should also give their votes.—A pretty specimen they have lately given of the dependence to be put on their honour!—Meeting one night, and unjustly deciding with vast importance, that no premiums should be given, though the Pictures were better than had ever been

seen for eight or ten years: meeting a few nights afterwards, and voting that there should! and yet these are the men who have always sneered at every decision at the Gallery, and treated every plan and every proposition of the Directors, as if it were the result of ignorance. The Royal Academy will not ruin Art in this country, as a Royal Academy has ruined it in every other, because here we are allowed to speak what we think; here we are allowed to tell his Majesty he lends his protection to patronize bad taste and promote error. In no country where Art has flourished, have one of half the Artists been at the mercy of the other; but all had an equal and a fair chance of attracting the public eye: it is a most pernicious power, and will ruin or suppress Art wherever it exist. The great Artists of Italy and Greece finished their works, and hung them in the best situations; but at the Academy, after years of investigation, you throw your reputation into the hands of men, who, according to the principles of human feelings, are and must be interested in keeping you from the public eye.—Those in the elevated walks of Art in the Academy, West, Fuzeli, Stothard, Northcote, who ought to have the direction of matters, have no more power than they who are out of it!—With such a system of things, it is not to be wondered at that Barry, with his irritability and enthusiastic notions of Art, should have quarrelled and have met with such a reception: I have no wish to plague the public with any more discussions about Barry or his misfortunes; but I must be allowed to suspect that his expulsion was more a political manœuvre to confirm the power of the party who proposed it, than from any sincere desire for the repose of the Academy—(a *pretty repose*, too, they enjoyed after his expulsion). Whatever were Barry's faults of conduct and freaks of temper, that he was sincere in his love for his Art, his getting through his work at the Adelphi incontestibly proves, and his beginning when he had but sixteen shillings in his pocket, and persevering when he had often none, is an example of energetic resolution and unconquerable perseverance, the usual attendants on high and independent minds. This his enemies know, and this provokes them more.—Latterly, he grew idle and irritable and morbid, walked about complaining that the cabal tied up his hands from working, when, on a strict self-examination, he would have found his hands were tied up more by his own idle inclinations, than from any power of any cabal. But, "let him that is without fault cast the first stone." Barry "is gone to his audit," as you say, Sir; and is, perhaps, as worthy to come out with approbation as any of us he has left behind. Nothing, indeed, can be more lamentable than the real state of Painting and Sculpture among the greater part of the Members of the Academy, or the state of feeling among the people; any proposition for a national work is regarded with a sneer,—and he that takes a twelvemonth about a picture becomes a bye word and joke:—but the people are not to be blamed; high notions of art and refined taste can only be acquired by seeing fine things; and were these things to be got at the Exhibition, at that splendid effusion of red curtains and Lord Mayors' maces, where the ambition of every Academician is to outglare his neighbour, with red lead and King's yellow, instead of outdo him by fine outlines, fine forms, fine characters, and refined expressions? When the people have their heads so split by pageantry and show, is it any wonder they have not been taught feeling for high art? The Artists are the instructors of a nation, and must create the taste by which they are to be admired. Did not Michael Angelo and Rafaelle create the Roman feeling? did Titian, Tintoretto, and Georgione, create the taste at Venice? —Do you expect the people to be inspired, and to come and tell you what is right?—No; it is you who are supposed to have investigated and studied the matter; and it is you who must go and tell them.—You may as justly ridicule a man who has never been taught to read for not relishing Homer, as ridicule the people of England for not having taste.—Have they not always crowded where any great work of Art was to be seen?—let us hear no more of such complaints, which are as unjust as they are ridiculous, and when coming from Artists, are always more to be considered as an excuse for their own indolence than an opinion, the result of a just estimation of things:—let us shew them fine things, and they will soon relish them; and what is better, more clearly perceive absurdity when it appears—So you hear the Academicians lament, with so many obstructions of climate and dress, the impossibility of attaining excellence in high art:—"Sir," said an Artist once, "every school has its character; the Roman school for drawing well, and the English school for drawing badly;—Sir, it is the character of the English school to draw badly."—Sir, we answer such gentlemen, do you paint all day and draw half the night, do you have in men and women, and compare their forms without their dress, as you cannot see their forms through?—If you did all this, we believe you would find that neither climate or dress, or the fated character of the English school, would check your advance to excellence, or prevent you from being great in high art.

[*To be concluded next week.*]

SHERIFFS FOR 1812.

Bedfordshire—J. Cooper, of Toddington, Esq.
Berkshire—G. Elwes, of Marcham, Esq.
Buckinghamshire—Sir W. Clayton, of Harleyford, Bart.
Camb. and Hunt.—John Carstairs, of Woodhurst, Esq.
Cheshire—Edmund Yates, of Ince, Esq.
Cumberland—Thomas Hartley, of Linthwaite, Esq.
Derbyshire—R. Bateman, of Foston, Esq.
Devonshire—J. Hay, of Collypriest, Esq.
Dorsetshire—T. Hurlock Bastard, of Charlton Marshal, Esq.
Essex—Sir R. Wigram, of Walthamstow, Bart.
Gloucestershire—Sir W. Hicks, of Witcomb-Park, Bart.
Herefordshire—T. Jay, of Derndale, Esq.
Hertfordshire—J. Currie, of Essenden, Esq.
Kent—J. Wells, of Bickley, Esq.
Leicestershire—R. Cheslyn, of Langley, Esq.
Lincolnshire—G. Lister, of Grisby, Esq.
Monmouthshire—C. Lewis, of St. Pierre, Esq.
Norfolk—J. T. Hales, of Hardingham, Esq.
Northamptonshire—P. Denys, of Easton Neston, Esq.
Northumberland—R. Bates, of Milbourne-Hall, Esq.
Nottinghamshire—H. Blaydes, of Ranby-Hall, Esq.
Oxfordshire—F. S. L. Wheate, of Glympton-Park, Esq.
Rutlandshire—G. N. Noel, of Exton, Esq.
Shropshire—R. R. Lister, of Rowton, Esq.
Somersetshire—W. Vaughan, of Monkton Combe, Esq.
Staffordshire—T. Mottershaw, of Silkmore-House, Esq.
County of Southampton—T. Thistlewaite, of Southwich, Esq.
Suffolk—R. Moore, of Melford, Esq.
Surrey—T. S. Benson, Champion-Lodge, Esq.
Sussex—G. F. Tyson, of Singleton, Esq.
Warwickshire—S. Peach, of Idlicote, Esq.
Wiltshire—Sir W. W. P. A'Court, of Heytesbury, Bart.
Worcestershire—J. Baker, of Waresley, Esq.
Yorkshire—Sir J. Slingsby, of Scriven-Park, Bart.

WALES.

Carmarthen—J. G. Phillips, of Cwingwilly, Esq.
Pembroke—H. Scourfield, of Robeston-Hall, Esq.
Cardigan—G. Jones, of Cardigan, Esq.
Glamorgan—M. P. Traherne, of Goytrahene, Esq.
Brecon—C. F. Crespigny, of Tallyn, Esq.
Radnor—T. Grove, the younger, of Cwm Elian, Esq.
Merioneth—W. Wynne, of Peniarth, Esq.
Carnarvon—The Hon. H. R. D. Burrell, of Gwrdir.
Anglesea—H. B. Owen, of Coedanna, Esq.
Montgomery—G. Meares, of Fynnant, Esq.
Denbigh—W. Edwards, of Hendre-House, Esq.
Flint.—H. Humphreys, of Parpylle, Esq.

LAW.

COURT OF KING's BENCH.

Wednesday, Jan. 29.

THE BISHOP OF DERRY v. MANSELL PHILLIPS, ESQ. M. P.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved for the judgment of the Court on Mansell Phillips, Esq.

The defendant having appeared in Court, the Criminal Information which he was charged with having published in the *Cambrian*, a libel against the Bishop of Derry, and on which information the defendant had allowed judgment to go against him by default, was read.—[The libel consisted of a paragraph, stating that the Bishop had engaged in manufacturing speculations, and had become a bankrupt, which was false.]

Mr. PHILLIPS, by his Counsel, made the most ample apology, declaring that the paragraph had been published without his consent,—that he had endeavoured to see the Bishop in order to apologize,—and that he had placed a considerable sum to be at the disposal of the Bishop.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL acknowledged that the Bishop of Derry was satisfied. The money, he said, would be given to the Society of the Sons of the Clergy.—The defendant was discharged on his recognizance.

SURREY SESSIONS.

On Wednesday, *James Floyd Hopkins* and *John Bates* were indicted for assaulting Mary Selwood.—This was one of the most brutal assaults ever before a Jury. The prosecutrix was a poor woman between sixty and seventy years of age, who got her living by washing. The defendant, Hopkins, was an officer of the Court of Requests, and Bates was his assistant. In July 1810 the Prosecutrix was summoned for a debt of 8s. 8d. due to a milkwoman; when before the Commissioners, she stated that she was a married woman, and the Court thought fit to make an order that the husband should pay the debt. In October last, however, the prosecutrix being confined to her bed-room by a very serious and dangerous malady, Bates and Hopkins entered her room, and informed her they had got an execution against her, and unless the money was immediately paid she must go to prison. The prosecutrix urged her inability to go, and reminded Hopkins he must know she was not liable; and was leaving the room to go into a front room, when Hopkins struck her a violent blow on the face, which knocked her down; he then dragged her to the to top of the stairs, and taking hold of her legs, whilst Bates placed his knees againt her shoulders and pushing her forward, they thus dragged her on her back down two pair of stairs. The cries of the unfortunate woman alarmed the other lodgers, and Mrs. Bates called in a respectable tradesman, named Windsor. Mr. Windsor remonstrated, but without effect, and at length paid the money. The stairs were covered with blood, as was that part of the prosecutrix's apparel which was not torn from her back in dragging her down stairs.

The defendants pleaded, that they acted under the authority of a warrant of execution, and that they had used no greater degree of violence than was necessary to secure their prisoner, who had attempted to escape.

The Jury, without hesitation, found the defendants Guilty.

The CHAIRMAN animadverted in strong terms on the aggravated offence of which the defendants had been guilty, which, he observed, would call for exemplary punishment; but suggested a compensation to the prosecutrix, and stated that the Court would not consider 100*l.* too large a sum for the defendants to pay.

The defendants were committed, and when they were again brought up, Mr. Brown informed the Court that the prosecutrix had agreed to take 60*l.*, which sum had been paid.

The Court then fined each defendant one shilling, and ordered each of them to enter into recognizances to keep the peace for two years, themselves in 100*l.* and two sureties in 50*l.* each, and to be imprisoned till such security was found.

POLICE.

BOW-STREET.

On Monday night, *Esther Eliza Counter*, otherwise *St. Julian*, and *George Harrison, Esq.* were brought to the Office, charged with sending threatening letters to the Hon. Basil Cochrane, charging him with a high misdemeanour, which is a transportable offence, for the purpose of extorting money from him. Miss St. Julian (a very elegant figure and prepossessing countenance, about 26 years of age), has cohabited with the Hon. Prosecutor as his mistress for about seven years, during which time she had children by him, two of whom are now living. Within these few months the Hon. Prosecutor was dissatisfied with her conduct, and left her. He went to reside at his house in Ramsgate. Miss St. Julian went to meet him at Gravesend, where he gave her ten pounds, and sent her back to London. During her absence from town, the house she occupied was taken possession of, and the goods sold. On the 11th inst. the Hon. Prosecutor received a letter from her, calling upon him to provide for her and his children, or she should be under the necessity of exposing him as to the crime he wanted her to commit, by wishing her to go into a steam bath to cause abortion. He received two other letters with the same threat afterwards. The Hon. Prosecutor did not return any written answers, but employed Mr. Hanson, his attorney, to wait upon Miss St. Julian, who stated to her that he waited upon her in consequence of the letters she had sent to the Hon. Basil Cochrane, to make an arrangement and settlement with her. It being strongly suspected that she had acted with the assistance and by the advice of a man, Mr. Hanson, to discover this, suggested to her the propriety of consulting with and acting under the direction of a male friend, which she fully agreed to, and named the prisoner Harrison. Mr. Hanson had several interviews with Mr. Harrison upon the business, at which he acknowledged that Miss St. Julian had sent the letters to the Hon. Prosecutor by his advice and assistance. The terms Harrison proposed in behalf of Miss St. Julian, to be obtained from prosecutor, were, that he should settle 10,000*l.* upon her and her children; Miss St. Julian to receive the interest during her life, to bring up her children, and at her death the principal to go to the children. There being sufficient legal ground for considering the prisoner, Harrison, implicated in sending the threatening letters, they were both taken into custody on Monday afternoon. Lavender took Miss St. Julian into custody, and on his communicating to her his unpleasant business, she became frantic, and endeavoured to jump out of a window two stories high, with her infant in her arms, between three and four years of age. The Hon. Basil Cochrane's and Mr. Hanson's evidence were read over.—Mr. READ calling upon Miss St. Julian to know what she had to say to the charges, she acknowledged sending the letters, and offered to swear to the truth of the charge; she appealed to the feelings of the Hon. Prosecutor as to his wishing to send her to a prison.—Mr. Harrison asked if he might a tale unfold?—Mr. READ told him, nothing he could say could justify the charge.—The bail he should require would be 200*l.* each, and two sureties of 100*l.* There being two friends of Mr. Harrison present, Mr. Hanson agreed to take their bail. There was no one present who knew Miss St. Julian to bail her, but Mr. Harrison's friends agreed to bail her also. The prisoners are to take their trial at the ensuing Assizes for Kent.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

Sir,—The depredations of Porters, Book-keepers, and others engaged about Inns and Stage-coaches, are too well known to need much introductory remark: these depredations are of various descriptions, but there is one of them which I have every reason to believe is carried on to an extent that the public is but little aware of,—I mean the non-delivery of Game sent from the country to London. A Country Gentleman sends his friend in London a hare, a pheasant, or a brace of partridges; the game never arrives, and if the friends are not in the habit of constant correspondence, this passes over without discovery for months,—so long, perhaps, that the person who sent the game can give no guess as to the exact time *when* it was sent: here is at once a hole for the peculators to creep out at. I do believe that this business is carried on systematically; that more are concerned in it than the delivering porters, and that the directions are preserved in case of strict enquiry, when game similar to what has been taken may be sent to the person enquiring; thus stopping his mouth and his enquiries together.

A circumstance of this sort happened to me very recently, which I will detail, and leave your readers to their own comments on it. A friend of mine at Thetford booked a hare for me, on the 6th of January, to come by the Norwich Mail, which puts up at the Golden-Cross, Charing-cross. On the 7th he had occasion to write to me, when he mentioned the hare, hoped I had received it safe, that it would prove good, &c. No such thing having reached me, I went to the Golden-Cross to enquire, which I did rather strictly; but upon referring to *all their books and bills*, they declared that no hare directed as I described had come to them. I consequently wrote to my friend stating this; and he, determined that I should not lose my treat, sent another, and also a letter, stating that he had sealed the first hare, as well as the last, with his initial on the head. Two days after my first letter to him, a hare was brought from Charing-cross, with *his direction* attached to it, but *without his initial on the head*; thus completely proving that the first hare had been *stolen*; but upon finding enquiry likely to be serious, the *preserved direction* was fastened to another (probably taken from some expecting Londoner) and sent to me; and certainly, but for the explanatory letters which luckily passed between my friend and me, I should have placed the delay to the overloading of the coach, and been satisfied that my hare had been left somewhere on the road till there was room for it.—I am, Sir, &c.

Clement's Inn, Jan. 29. 1812. J. M. L.

Sunday week, about eight o'clock, the laundry-maid at H. Smith's, Esq. of Hackney Wick, was alarmed by the appearance of a man's head at the sky-light; she ran screaming into the kitchen, exclaiming—"he looked me in the face;" and fell into fits. As the coachman was preparing to go to bed, he heard the cutting of panes of glass in the laundry; he instantly gave the alarm to his master, who, with his son and three servants, well armed, proceeded to reconnoitre the premises; they divided, young Mr. Smith and the coachman proceeding to search the shrubbery; the coachman at length left his young master; a whistle having been fixed on as the signal of attack; the signal was at length given, and soon after the coachman came running to give the alarm: he had literally stumbled over one of the ruffians (there were four), as he lay in the shrubbery.—On his rising, the word was given to *halt*; three of the thieves sprang over the paling, the other knocked the coachman down, who had unsuccessfully aimed a blow at his head; as the coachman recovering from the effects of the blow, he perceived the fellow climbing over the pales, and running up caught fast hold of his coat; the assassin, deliberately presenting a pistol close to his head, snapped it: it luckily, however, flashed in the pan; but the fellow escaped; the coachman and his young master making their way over the paling, narrowly searched the lane, and at length discovered two men armed, creeping softly along the hedge; on being hailed, they proved to be the patrole.

On Wednesday an Inquest was held at the Golden Anchor, Leadenhall-street, upon the body of Mrs. May, the wife of an Ironmonger in Oxford-street, who was run over by a waggon on Tuesday afternoon.—Mr. May had stopped in his gig at the door of the house lately occupied by the celebrated *Dirty Dick*, the ironmonger, to speak about some business with the present occupant. He left Mrs. May in the vehicle, holding the reins until his return. Before, however, he completed his business, a stage-coach coming quickly by, caught the off wheel of the gig, overturned it, and threw Mrs. May into the middle of the street, when a heavy waggon, which was passing at the same instant, went over her head and crushed out her brains. Her distracted husband came out of the house just time enough to be a spectator of the horrible scene. The lifeless body was immediately conveyed to the Golden Anchor.—Mr. and Mrs. May were a young married couple, the latter not yet 20, and in the seventh month of her pregnancy.—*Accidental Death.*

On Wednesday another forgery was discovered in the Bank. A clerk, who has been in the Warrant Office for many years, was found to have given forged receipts for sums of money to a great amount, which had been entrusted to him to purchase in the funds, but which it appears he never did. He absconded immediately upon the discovery.

On Monday se'nnight *John Bunton* was committed to the City Gaol, at Norwich, charged with burglariously entering the premises of Messrs. Aggs and Co., in the night time, and stealing a quantity of twist cotton. The conductor of the manufactory, Mr. Strike, has a daughter, who superintends that department which is performed by women. On the above evening she was awaked by a noise, when hastily slipping on a great coat, she ran to her father's chamber, who not being dressed with sufficient speed, she snatched up a large hammer and went alone, in the dark, into the manufactory, where she perceived Bunton in the act of taking the twist cotton. She instantly struck him on the back of the head with the hammer, and on his turning about, repeated the blow upon his forehead with such effect, as to bring him to the ground covered with blood. Apprehending that he might probably have accomplices, she shrieked aloud, which brought her father to her assistance, and they secured the robber.

Execution.—Wednesday morning, *E. Phillips*, *W. Habberfield*, *P. Whitehead*, *J. Fraser*, *E. Hall*, alias *Campbell*, and *W. Higgins*, alias *Fowler*, were executed pursuant to their sentences. The unhappy men seemed prepared to meet their fate with decent fortitude. Each shook hands with the others next to him; and they were soon after launched out of this world.—The crowd was immense.

MARRIAGES.

On Wednesday, at St. Mary, Lambeth, Mr. G. A. Rorauer, of Lambeth Terrace, to Miss Mary Harrison, of Park-place, Kennington.

DEATHS.

On Thursday, January 9, in his 50th year, Mr. Wm. Collins, of Great Portland-street, author of the Memoirs of a Picture, Life of Morland, Slave Trade, &c. &c.

On the 20th of January, in Charges-street, Piccadilly, Mr. Jacob Frederick Knoche; and two days afterwards, his wife, Mrs. Avis Knoche, each aged 96 years:—they had been married (says a Correspondent) for upwards of 68 years, and in that state experienced the utmost felicity.

On Saturday week, aged 73, Mr. James Finden, of John-street, Fitzroy-square, much and deservedly regretted.

On Monday week, aged 36, James Nott, currier, No. 50, Seward-street, St. Luke's, leaving four helpless children ill with the hooping-cough, and a widow, who is now confined to her bed by grief and sickness.—The deceased was in the employment of Mr. Dodgson, currier, No. 21, Compton-street, Clerkenwell, by whom he was much respected for his industry and honesty.—*Here*, then, is a family of wretchedness;—four young orphans, and their afflicted mother, on a sick bed, destitute, without health or hope!—Can human misery be greater? Can fancy picture objects more worthy of attention and aid?

Printed and published by John Hunt, at the Examiner Office, 15, Beaufort Buildings, Strand.—Price 8½d.